

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0124
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00976

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, MARR, LE, IS, XF, US
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON: PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF SECRETARY
GENERAL'S OFFICE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 425

1. SUMMARY: UN USYG URQUHART HAS INITIATED THE RETURN TO
THEIR POSTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON OF SOME 50 UNTSO MILITARY
OBSERVERS AND WILL MOVE IN ABOUT 400 MEN FROM UNEF AND
UNDOF AS SOON AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACCEPTS THE SYG'S
REPORT. FURTHER STEPS TO DEPLOY UNIFIL DEPEND ON THE
AGREEMENT OF LEBANON AND ISRAEL TO MODALITIES FOR WITH-
DRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UN AREA OF OPERATIONS.
MOST CRUCIAL IS ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE MANDATE AND
AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. THE UN DOES
NOT NEED OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO MAKE ITS INITIAL
DEPLOYMENTS OF 450 MEN, AND WILL INFORM US OF US SUPPORT
REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL AS SOON AS THE TERMS
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OF THE MANDATE ARE AGREED WITH THE PARTIES. END SUMMARY

2. POLCOUNS MET WITH UN UNDERSECRETARY-GENERAL URQUHART
AND HIS AIDE JAMES JOHAN LATE MARCH 19 ON THE TELEPHONED
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS IN MORE CONCRETE
TERMS THE UN'S PLANNING FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF
UNSC RESOLUTION 425. WE WERE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN

LOGISTIC AND OTHER SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS THAT MIGHT BE
LEVIED ON THE US IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

3. URQUHART AND JONAH EXPLAINED THAT ORDERS HAD
ALREADY BEEN ISSUED FOR THE UNTSO PERSONNEL EVACUATED AS
A RESULT OF THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO RETURN TO
THEIR POSTS. CONSEQUENTLY, APPROXIMATELY 50 PERSONNEL
SHOULD ALREADY BE IN ROUTE BACK TO THEIR POSTS. NO
OUTSIDE SUPPORT IS REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MOVEMENT.

4. URQUHART ALSO SAID THE UN PLANNED TO MOVE ONE REINFORC-
ED COMPANY (APPROXIMATELY 200 MEN) EACH FROM UNEF AND
UNDOF TO SOUTHERN LEBANON IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ADOPTION
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT. THE TEMPORARY TRANSFER
OF THESE UNITS (APPROXIMATELY 400 MEN) REQUIRES THE
APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA, WHICH
THE UN IS PRESENTLY SEEKING. URQUHART, OF COURSE,
ANTICIPATED NO DIFFICULTY IN CLEARING THE WAY FOR MOVEMENT
OF THESE TWO COMPANIES AND PLANNED TO LAUNCH IT AS SOON
AS THE SYG'S REPORT IS ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL. THE UN
NEEDS NO OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO ACCOMPLISH THE INSERTION INTO
SOUTHERN LEBANON OF THESE TWO COMPANIES.

5. BEYOND THESE INITIAL ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH AN
IMMEDIATE UN PRESENCE IN THE AREA, WHICH URQUHART TERMED
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ESSENTIALLY A "HOLDING ACTION," THE UN HAS CONCLUDED THAT
IT CANNOT PROCEED WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE REST OF THE
INTERIM FORCE (UNIFIL) UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH
THE PARTIES ON THE MODALITIES OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI
FORCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN AREA OF OPERATIONS
(PARA 9 (A) IN THE SYG'S REPORT). THE CRUCIAL FIRST
REQUIREMENT, THEREFORE, IS ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF THE
REPORT AND ASSURANCE OF ITS COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMEN-
TATION OF THE SC RESOLUTIONS. WITHOUT ISRAELI COOPERATION
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DEPLOY UNIFIL INTO SOUTHERN
LEBANON: BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF ARAB FORCES IN BEIRUT,
THE USE OF THE PORT AT HAIFA WILL BE NECESSARY; PERMISSION
OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MUST BE OBTAINED TO USE THE
ROADS TO THE AREA OF OPERATION; UN FORCES CANNOT BE MOVED
INTO THE AREA IF IT REMAINS UNDER THE OCCUPATION OF THE
ISRAELI FORCES; THE ISRAELIS MUST AGREE TO COMMENCE THEIR
WITHDRAWAL.

6. URQUHART SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION, EITHER
DIRECTLY FROM ISRAELI PERMREP HERZOG OR THROUGH THE
STATEMENTS HE MADE IN THE COUNCIL OR FROM PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN'S STATEMENT AS HE DEPARTED TEL AVIV FOR THE US,

THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND
OFFER ITS FULL COOPERATION IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.
URQUHART SAID HE FOUND IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT ISRAEL WOULD
REJECT THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S DECISION, BUT IT HAD IT
WITHIN ITS POWER TO DELAY THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMEN-
TATION PROCESS. WITHOUT ISRAELI COOPERATION, AS THE
SYG'S REPORT POINTS OUT, THE UN CANNOT ACT IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON.

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7. AS SOON AS THE SC ADOPTS THE SYG'S REPORT, GENERAL
SIILASVUO WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF LEBANON AND ISRAEL ON THE
MODALITIES OF THE WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN
AREA OF OPERATIONS. URQUHART'S STAFF IS CONCERNED THAT
THESE NEGOTIATIONS NOT BE TIME-CONSUMING. IN ADDITION
TO THE PROBLEM OF ISRAELI COOPERATION, HOWEVER, THE UN
ASSUMES (WHETHER BY DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTITUDE
OF THE GOL OR NOT IS NOT KNOWN) THAT LEBANON WILL REFUSE
TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OCCUPIER
OF PART OF ITS TERRITORY. THAT WILL NECESSITATE A
SIILASVUO SHUTTLE BETWEEN BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM. THE ONLY
AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO THE UN IN THE AREA IS A SLOW
CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT; JONAH SAID A FAST EXECUTIVE-TYPE
JET WOULD OBVIOUSLY SAVE CONSIDERABLE TIME IN CONDUCTING

SUCH TALKS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT, WHILE PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS AND THE LEBANESE -- PRESUMABLY BY THE AMERICANS -- MIGHT PRODUCE AGREEMENT BY THE PARTIES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MEET TOGETHER, A NEUTRAL SITE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS POSES CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS. MOST OF THE TOWNS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAVE EITHER BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED OR ARE UNDER MILITARY PRESSURE. HE ADMITTED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE INSUPERABLE, HOWEVER, GIVEN AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES TO MEET.

8. JONAH ESTIMATED THAT, IF FULL ISRAELI COOPERATION WERE GAINED, SIILASVUO'S NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE STARTED BY THE END OF THIS COMING WEEK. ASSUMING FULL COOPERATION OF THE PARTIES, THE UN WOULD BEGIN PROVIDING THE US WITH CONCRETE INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER SIILASVUO ACHIEVES AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES. UNTIL THIS FIRST STAGE IN THE OPERATION IS ACCOMPLISHED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFINE THE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WHICH THE UN WILL LOOK TO THE US.

9. JONAH AND URQUHART ASSURED POLCOUNS THAT THEY WOULD KEEP US CLOSELY INFORMED AND WELCOMED OUR EAGERNESS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM. LEONARD

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